

REMARKS

Claims 24-34 are pending in the application.

Claim 31 is allowed.

Claims 28 and 30 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 24-27, 29, and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Woolston (6,085,176).

According to the foregoing, the claims are amended, and, thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is requested. No new matter has been added.

Independent claim 31, which is allowed but rejected for indefiniteness is amended taking into consideration the Examiner comments. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 31 is requested.

Other independent claims 24-27, 29, 32 and 33 are amended to require the merchandise specifiers of independent claim 31, providing a benefit of offering more targeted merchandise to potential buyers, namely:

receiving possession specifiers, each specifying a ~~possessed merchandise that one of a plurality of customers possesses~~merchandise possession information of customers in relation to merchandise, transmitted from the customers via a network, ~~the possession specifiers including~~

a first kind specifier, each specifying a first merchandise the customer possesses,

a second kind specifier, each specifying a second merchandise the customer does not possess,

a third kind specifier, each specifying a third merchandise the customer has already purchased,

a fourth kind specifier, each specifying a fourth merchandise the customer does not need to possess any more but the customer still possesses,

a fifth kind specifier, each specifying a fifth merchandise the customer does not need to possess that the customer has purchased;

It is readily apparent that Woolston cannot anticipate the claims by failing to expressly or inherently disclose the above features for the same rationale as for allowed independent claim 31.

Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is requested.

CONCLUSION

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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